Dear Colleagues,

I am writing this from Oslo where I’m currently taking part in a two-days meeting with the Portfolio board for ground-breaking research of the Research Council of Norway. Since this board is new from January this year, we have discussions on what is our role and responsibility, area of possibility, and what we should focus on. Discussions have been very interesting and hopefully we can make a difference over the four-year period ahead.

One of the topics on the agenda today is the national evaluations of natural sciences and biosciences. Both reports have interesting findings and recommendations – and I do hope our board can help follow up some of these and help raise awareness of others. Next year, we will have the evaluation of mathematics and informatics as well as that of medicine and health sciences on our agenda.

I am looking forward to the department gathering (I hope you signed up before yesterday’s deadline) in a week and a half (April 22nd-23rd) at Solstrand. We have an exciting program including discussions around how we should update our study program curriculums in light of developments and the needs we see ourselves, as well as the systematic work done in the context of IEEE and AAAI in their CS2023 report. We will also have sessions focusing on research ethics, integrity, open science, and on the further work at our department concerning gender balance, equality, and diversity. I hope to see many of you there and look forward to inspiring discussions!

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

Inge

The Dean’s Blog - Gunn Mangerud

The Dean’s blog aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Her latest posts:

- Nytt forskningssenter i realfagslæring på MatNat
- Strammere økonomiske tider
**Praktisk informatikk**

On the 21st of March, the first edition of a series of “practical informatics” talks was held, featuring Christian Sloper. This series of sporadically occurring talks is for both students and staff and will be focusing on practical applications of informatics in various industries.

*PS: Rumors have it that the next edition will be announced very soon, so keep an eye on your inbox.*

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**Fighting fires**

This week, several fires broke out outside our department building. Luckily, a heroic queue of staff members were ready to put them out in rapid succession!

If you haven’t done the fire course yet, it’s important that you do so. This is the last only one we are organizing at our department this year, so if you didn’t attend, you will have to look into attending one of the [centrally organized courses](#).
New colleagues

Asieh Abolpouri Mofrad
Asieh is an old friend of ours, as she finished her PhD thesis with the Selmer Center in 2021. She is now joining the machine learning group as a researcher, and will be working on the Retail Fresh project.

Welcome (back), Asieh!

Florian Müller
Florian was born in Germany but has lived in Norway since his teens. He did both his bachelor’s and master’s degree at our department, and after a few years at the Directorate of Fisheries, he is now back at CBU as a senior engineer.

Welcome (back), Florian!

Roohani Sharma
Roohani is from India, where she did her PhD at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences. Now she is joining the algorithm group as a postdoc working on Lossy Preprocessing (LOPRE).

Welcome, Roohani!

Linn Astrid Blix Torget
After working for five years at the University of Oslo, Linn Astrid has decided to upgrade. She has now joined our study section, where she will - among other things - coordinate INF100, hire new student group leaders and do course scheduling.

Welcome, Linn Astrid!
Solstrand 2024

The annual department gathering is near!

Registration closed on the 11th of April. If you didn’t sign up, here is what you’re missing out on:

22nd of April:
08:00 Bus departures from HIB
09:30 Welcome, Inge Jonassen
09:40 Evalbiomit CBU – what did we learned and how to follow up,
10:10 Research ethics, integrity, open science (introduction and group discussion/work), Jenny Ostrop
11:10 Short break
11:30 AI billion, initiatives
12:00 Administration – staff and roles, Linda Vagtskjold and Eirik Rekve Thorsheim
12:30 Lunch
13:30 New Universitets- og høyskole lov and proposed changes in admission trough Samordna opptak, Inge Jonassen and Eirik Rekve Thorsheim
14:00 Curriculum update – including group work
15:00 Break
15:30 Student active learning - sharing of experiences
16:30 Program Day 1 ends
19:30 Aperitif
20:00 Dinner

23rd of April:
09:00 Informatics in the society – some perspectives from pro-rector's office, Pinar Heggernes
09:45 Publications coming out of PhD-thesis, Ahmad Hemmati and Eirik Rekve Thorsheim
10:30 Break
11:00 HSE-seminar: Action plan for gender balance, equality, and diversity
  • Presentation of survey results
  • Inspiration talk by Atle Rotevatn – GEO's action plan
  • Group work: working on adjusting our action plan.
    The plan has 6 different sections – two groups work on each section
13:00 Lunch
14:00 Bus departures from Solstrand. Arrival in Bergen approximately at 15:00
Warning: Maintenance work from the 15th of April

We have received a warning from the University Estate and Facilities Management division that there will be considerable digging and repair work done between our building and Biologen (the building where the biologists live). This is estimated to take five weeks, and means the area will be inaccessible to traffic, and there will be periods of noise.

Questions about this can be directed towards:
Kim Øvrebø
Leder Teknisk Avdeling ILAB
Mob.tlf: +47 920 59 123
Email: Kim.Ovrebo@ilab.no

Career Management Skills
07.05.2024 - 09.00–12.00
Registration deadline: 03.05.2024 - 23.55

How can reflecting on your future career be beneficial to you as an early stage researcher? How to invest in career thinking and not be overwhelmed? Join this course for enhanced knowledge about career planning.

See the UiB.no event here:
Career Management Skills

2024 CATER School
This summer school is aimed at PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, early-career researchers, practitioners (e.g., employees at relevant government or non-governmental agencies and private sector employees) who are engaged with, working in a sector threatened by, or generally interested in learning about, climate risk, resilience and action.

Read more about the 2024 CATER School

Do you have a good idea?
UiB idé gives employees and students the opportunity to apply for support to test and develop good innovation ideas.

Are you a student? And you have an idea of how your municipality could serve its citizens in a better way, but you don’t know how to proceed? Or are you a researcher? And you believe that your research results could really make a difference to peoples’ lives, or be valuable to an industry, but you do not know how to turn it into an actual product? With UiB idé, UiB has a program that can support your idea with both advice and funding, to help you to reach your goal.

The maximum funding amount is NOK 500,000 for researcher projects, and NOK 100,000 for student projects. The application deadline is the 19th of April 2024. The program budget is NOK 2,000,000.

Read more on the UiB Innovation website.
What do hydrogen explosions sound and look like?

Ever wondered about the visual and auditory drama of a hydrogen explosion?

In this talk, Ph.D. candidate Melodia Lucas will take us on an exciting journey, revealing large-scale hydrogen explosions through experiments in Sotra and 3D simulations in FLACS. She will also show the limitations of the simulation tool and share her work to improve the predictive capabilities.

When: Thursday 18. April at 14:15
Where: Science Library

Our competitors in newsletterology

Did you know there are other people who also make newsletters?

Here are a few that may be relevant to you:

- Newsletter for international UiB staff
- UiB Ferd newsletter
- Nytt fra W4-prosjektet (In Norwegian, only available to UiB employees)
- Eitri Medical Incubator

Save the date: CEDAS Data Science in Practice event

June 10th 2024

CEDAS is organising a “Data Science in Practice” event that aims to bring together data science “theorists” and “practitioners” both from industry and from academia. The program includes interesting talks and case studies.

More information about program and registration will follow.
UiB Ferd Career Centre supports doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows, researchers and associate professors. We offer a range of services designed to help you develop your career within or beyond the university. You can read more and sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.

Upcoming UiB Ferd events include:

16.04.24: Building your academic CV (Course)
Registration deadline: 15.04.2024 at 12:00

19.04.24: Research Data Management (RDM) in the Active Phase of Research (Course)
Registration deadline: 18.04.2024 at 12:00

22.04.24: Software Carpentry course in research computing skills: Shell, R and Python for reproducible analysis, Git (Course)
Registration deadline: 17.04.2024 at 12:00

24.02.24: Software Carpentry course in research computing skills: Shell, R and Python for reproducible analysis, Git (Course)
Registration deadline: 17.04.2024 at 12:00

03.05.24: Open access - step by step (Course)
Registration deadline: 02.05.2024 at 12:00

06.05.24: The how and why of UiB - and why it matters to you (Course)
Registration deadline: 30.04.2024 at 23:00

07.05.24: Career Management Skills (Course)
Registration deadline: 03.05.2024 at 23:55

07.05.24: Introductory course to LaTeX (Course)
Registration deadline: 03.05.2024 at 12:00

The UiB University Library and its Digital Lab offer a wide range of interesting courses and events – please find more information in the calendar.

Vacant positions

- Research Assistant in Informatics – up to 4 positions
- PhD Research Fellow in generative machine learning with geoscience applications [Distinguish]
- Researcher 1108 in Informatics – Computational Biology
- Lead AI postdoctoral research fellow position in Algorithms and AI
- Lead AI postdoctoral research fellow position within Reeb graph learning
- Lead AI postdoctoral research fellow position within Cryptography and Security of AI

See all open positions at UiB

Please visit the HSE page on uib.no for info about health and safety efforts at our department, as well as info about your representatives.
Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you plan to apply. All applications need to be approved by the department leadership before submission. By following the link, you can find out more about our research support services.

**FRIPRO:** The Research Council of Norway has published information about the current FRIPRO (groundbreaking research) calls on their website.

- [Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists (FRIPRO)](link)
- [Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO)](link)
- [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility (FRIPRO)](link)

Application deadline: open-ended

**UiB ide:** «UiB idé gives employees and students the opportunity to apply for support to test and develop good innovation ideas.»

Application deadline: 19 April 2024

**NordForsk:** “The Nordic countries have teamed up with Canada and the USA to launch a NordForsk call on the sustainable development of the Arctic. [...] three keywords can inspire applicants when developing their research ideas into proposals: Security, Natural Resources, and/or Societal Changes.”

Application deadline: 4 June 2024

**Industrial PhD Scheme:** “The Research Council has established the Industrial PhD Scheme to boost research efforts and long-term competence-building for Norwegian trade and industry through the recruitment of doctoral candidates. [...] Under this call, funding will be provided for at least 49 Industrial PhD projects. Of these, funding will preferably be awarded to: 2 projects of relevance to Maritime, 2 projects of relevance to ICT security and cryptology, 10 projects within the field of Artificial Intelligence, 35 Industrial PhD projects open to all themes and industries.”

*New* Application deadline: postponed from April to 5 June 2024

**Young CAS Grant:** The Young CAS Grant “is the funding opportunity offered to early career scholars below the age of 40. Recipients of a Young CAS Grant receive funding and support for their research project and gain valuable experience in organising multiple workshops and a two-month research stay at the Centre.”

Application deadline: 10 June 2024

**Support for events:** In 2024, there are also funds available within the portfolio of Enabling technologies!

Application deadline: open-ended
**New SPIRE:** SPIRE funds are strategic funds used to facilitate international research collaboration. You can apply in two different categories: 1) international research collaboration to promote external funding applications, and 2) invitation of guest researchers. Please have a close look at the eligibility criteria and proposal requirements on the SPIRE website. If you plan to apply for guest researcher support, then please consult the department’s information site about our guest researcher routines and register your guest(s) prior to submitting your SPIRE proposal. When submitting your SPIRE proposal, please indicate if you have obtained approval from the department to invite this guest in case you are awarded SPIRE funds. Proposals need to follow the template (see website) and have to be sent to Stefanie Meyer.

Application deadline: 9 May 2024

**New Abel Prize:** The Abel Prize recognizes “pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics”.

Nomination deadline: 1 September 2024

**New How to write competitive proposals for the ERC Advanced Grant:** “This [digital] course, led by Yellow Research senior consultant Mette Skråstad, explains how to convey your research concept in a way that convinces both the ERC panel and your expert evaluators, and maximises your chance of success.” Course date: 18 April 2024, 9.00 – 15.30. Registration deadline: 18 April 2024, 8.59

**New NORPART:** NORPART supports “project partnerships between higher education institutions in Norway and partner institutions in selected partner countries in the Global South. [...] The overall aim of NORPART is to contribute to enhanced quality of higher education in Norway and selected partner countries, through academic cooperation and mutual student mobility.” UiB also offers special support for applicants.

Application deadline: 3 June 2024

**COST:** “Participants are invited to submit COST Action proposals contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. [...] A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for 4 years. COST Actions are typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions and other relevant organisations or interested parties.”

Application deadline: 23 October 2024

**New AIM SQuaREs:** “AIM’s SQuaREs program allows a dedicated group of four to six mathematicians to pursue an ambitious research program. [...] AIM provides the research facilities and the financial support for each member of the group, and the group may return in future years to continue their collaboration. Each group will be supported for up to three meetings over three consecutive years.”

Application deadline: 1 November 2024

**New Abel Prize:** The Abel Prize recognizes “pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics”.

Nomination deadline: 1 September 2024

**New How to write competitive proposals for the ERC Advanced Grant:** “This [digital] course, led by Yellow Research senior consultant Mette Skråstad, explains how to convey your research concept in a way that convinces both the ERC panel and your expert evaluators, and maximises your chance of success.” Course date: 18 April 2024, 9.00 – 15.30. Registration deadline: 18 April 2024, 8.59

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Application deadline: 3 June 2024
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**Workshop: Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph**
*Time:* 17-19th August, 2024  
*Location:* Drøbak Research Station (Tollboden)  
*Workshop responsible:* José Cerca (UiO) and Ole Kristian Tørresen (UiO)  
*Registration:* [https://github.com/ebp-nor/GARG](https://github.com/ebp-nor/GARG)

**Workshop description:** The Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph workshop (GARG’w) is a comprehensive 3-day program designed to introduce participants to the fascinating world of population genomics and how recombination events shape genomes. This hands-on workshop will focus on utilizing the tskit environment, a powerful tool for simulating and analyzing genomic data (whole-genome resequencing data), to explore and understand complex inheritance patterns within populations. Join us for this immersive 3-day workshop to gain valuable skills and insights into the world of genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graphics using tskit. Unlock the secrets hidden in genetic data and discover the historical events that have shaped the genetic ancestry of species and populations.

**PLEASE NOTE:** NORBIS WILL NOT COVER TRAVEL AND STAY FOR ITS MEMBERS FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Research Data Management course – September 2-4 at University of Bergen, by Korbinian Bösl

**MORE ACTIVITIES WILL BE ONLINE SOON!**